

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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- Workers on the Kolkhoz imeni Stalina invariably condemned collectivization as the principal cause of their low standard of living. Some people went one step further and blamed the Party, since it had collectivized the farms. In the entire region                      people living on collective farms were disgruntled, remembering the better living conditions which had prevailed before World War II. Some of the older people often said that conditions were more acceptable under the Tsar. Today, they argued, kolkhoz workers labor long hours and receive but a pittance in payment. Workers also complained constantly of their monotonous and inadequate diet, which consisted chiefly of gruel, potatoes, cabbage, and bread.
- Most of the kolkhoz workers, however, had no idea of how they might better their status. They seemed to have accepted current conditions as a permanent state about which they could do nothing, and over which they had no control. These people existed from day to day, enduring the present but without hope for the future.
- General discontent, although quite apparent to everyone, had not yet been diverted into a channel for the improvement of living conditions. This state of passive acceptance was reflected in the lack of reaction to official propaganda. Kolkhoz workers heard and read that they enjoy a life which becomes fuller every year; but, because they had become so inured to this constant wash of propaganda, it no longer affected them either positively or negatively. A few people, recalling the German occupation during World War II when they lived better and were freer, hoped that perhaps                      an occupation of the USSR might alleviate the poverty. Generally speaking, however, kolkhoz workers did nothing to improve their status, cursed conditions, and drank to forget their troubles.

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